

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

President's Message

Here it is April already and the first of our Public Service events is coming up on the 8th and for some of us the 9th. It's the Organs 'R' Us Relay which, I believe, is the longest relay race in the country. It starts in Calistoga and ends at the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz. Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ is the lead for organizing our participation in manning the exchange points throughout Marin so please get in touch with him if you can help. This will be my third year at the Sausalito exchange which opens around 8:30 PM and I get to look at the inside of my eyelids around 6 AM. I hope you will excuse my missing Sunday bible class that weekend. I just don't want you all making fun of the walking dead.

As we are all plagued with the continued rising costs of living, so is our club. At the last Board meeting we spent a good portion of our time looking over our finances. Some of our big ticket items that impact our bottom line are utilities and recreation activities. Last year we ended a bit in the red and with comparable or higher expenditures this year we decided to work on a formal budget, hopefully to be in place by June. I hope all of you agree that a budget will help us properly manage or fairly static income. A question for our elders: has the club ever had an annual budget?

It looks like there is interest in holding a swap meet. We still have a lot of planning to do so if someone would volunteer to take the lead with that it would be a big help. Any takers please let me know. We are looking at holding the meet sometime in September or October.

I started off with Public Service so I will end my ramblings with it. The club supports some 15 to 17 events each year. If each member volunteered to help with just one event we would have them well covered. But in past years this has not been the case.

Column two, lower.

**Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630**

Public Service Events for 2006

Here is the 2006 schedule so far:

- April 8 & 9 The Relay (Organs R Us)
- May 6 Miwok 100K
- May 13 Marin Human Race
- June 11 The Dipsea
- June 24 Double Dipsea
- August 5 Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century
- August 19 Holstein Hundred
- October 15 Escape from Alcatraz

Randy KA6BQF

Program for April Meeting

I have arranged for a program for the April 7th membership meeting. Alan Biocca, WB6ZQZ and Eric Williams, WD6CMU will present a program on Pneumatic Antenna Launchers, a system for putting antennas safely high up into the trees. They made the presentation at the March EBARC meeting and it was quite impressive.

Randy

This is the final issue for those who have not renewed their membership. Cheap. Only \$20.00.

From column one.

It never fails that our Public Service chair has to go begging for help and, at last resort, will bring in people from other clubs. We then have to reciprocate, stretching our manpower further. These events are a lot of fun. You meet a lot of great people, you get fed and it gives you a chance to hone your emcomm skills. I am asking you to please look at your calendars and find just one event (or more; we wont turn you away.) that you can help with. Our participation supporting our community and its many nonprofit organizations promotes the club and amateur radio.

Dave Hodgson. KG6TCJ

**P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903**

Board Meeting 14 March.

The meeting was called to order by President Hodgson at 19:31. Present were President Dave, KG6TCJ; Vice-president/Treasurer Eric, KG6WOU; Secretary Randy, KA6BQF; Board Members Al, W5ALW; Tom, KG6TCM; Kevin, KF6YUF; Raine, KG6GGI; Frank, WA6JTP; John KE6ORI; K6GWE Trustee Doug, KF6AKU; and QSA-5 Editor Phil, K6PHD. Not present was W6SG Trustee Augie, KØCQL.

The agenda was approved with one addition.

The minutes of the February Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5. There was no correspondence reported.

President Dave reported that the picnic was scheduled for September 23.

Public Service Chair Randy reported that Chuck Deatrick, WA6SQQ was organizing "The Relay", had about half the required positions filled and is still looking for more people. Randy still needs volunteers for the Miwok on May 6th. Dave and Doug Slusher said they should be available.

Under Technical Committee, Doug reported that when the weather and logistics permit, there will be trip to the Mt. Tam repeater site to do some reconfiguration of the controller. P/M on San Pedro will follow on the agenda. The Tam West input to the 147.330 system was discussed. Tam West and Tiburon site access were discussed. The problem on the 146.700 repeater was discussed. Dave reported that the parts for the APRS trackers were coming together.

Truck Committee Chair John reported that he hasn't done much with the truck recently. He is trying to schedule the generator servicing. There was some discussion of methods to get the body work done.

Hodgson reported that he believed that both education sessions had been completed.

VE Liaison Al Weisman reported that the next VE session would be on Saturday, March 18, and that he was seeking VEs. Jenkins said that he would e-mail the list of VEs. Al commented on the promptness of changes to the website.

Pres. Dave reported that Field Day Chair Norm Baetz was trying to contact the Rod & Gun Club.

To page two, column one.

Board Meeting 3 March, cont.
 (This has been done and The Rod & Gun Club site is available to the club. A final decision on Field Day location has not been made yet but I'd bet on the R&G. ed.)

As Marin RACES Liaison, Dave had no report. The Yahoo group was discussed.

The Building Manager's Report was deferred to Old Business.

Old Business:

Restrooms. Kitchen. Office. These issues were discussed at length. Comments were made about protecting the building envelope, and roofing options. The question of making the restrooms ADA compliant was raised and discussed. Whether to do a complete remodel or a cosmetic upgrade was discussed. Sequencing, and prioritization of the project was discussed.

A motion was made by John Boyd, seconded by Eric, and amended by discussion, to read: Direct the Building Manager to get three bids for: a) Work to re-roof the building addition and to deal with other existing leaks; and b) An alternate to modify the roof areas over the addition as specified in the remodeling plans; with a report due for the May Board of Director's meeting. Motion Passed.

New Business:

Building Manager John Butler investigated the cost of having regular janitorial service for the building. John had the building vacuumed, and the restrooms cleaned. Prices for the service varied with the frequency of service. Cleaning schedules, and walk-off mats were discussed. The Board tabled the proposal until the May Directors' Meeting.

The Board revisited the issue of spending v. income, in light of the Treasurer's initial report and discussed several possible revenue enhancements and spending curtailments. There was a discussion on investigating the costs involved in changing the heating system for the second floor apartment, to see if it would pay for itself. The Treasurer and the bookkeeper will work to present a more detailed spending report to the Board, and to have a summary report available at the General Membership meetings.

At the suggestion of Director Boyd, Editor Dunlap will investigate the possibility of using the non-profit postage rate on the QSA-5 mailing. (It was found that with less than 200 copies of QSA-5 being mailed, we don't qualify for a postal rate cut. Info from Bill Hillendahl, our San Francisco ARRL Section Manager. ed.)

A steel desk and chair was offered to the club by a member. The Board determined that those items were not needed. Director Tom Jordan said he would

To column two, top.

From column one.
 contact the member and see if he needed assistance moving the items.

There was a proposed donation of radio equipment presented by Director Kevin Foley. After discussion, the Board decided to accept the donation. Kevin will relay our acceptance.

The proposal to hold a Swap Meet was discussed.

Randy asked if there was interest in a program for the April Meeting. If we can get the proposed speaker, we will schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:52.

Respectfully submitted,
 Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary.

From column three.
 as several of those 137 are in family memberships. More renewals have come in since that count was taken. ed.)

Treasurer Eric presented a report and analysis of the club's 2005 expenses, totaling \$25,203.05. This includes all expenses related to the building. The apartment rental rate was discussed.

As RACES Liaison, Dave Hodgson reported on the RACES meeting on February 25. There is a Yahoo Group for interested parties; M O A - R A C E S - Subscribe@yahoo.com.

The Kid's Day chairman was not present to make a report. John Iacono, KF6VYH, suggested the Corte Madera Town Center.

Building Manager John Butler, KF6GNI, was not present but left a report, summarized by President Dave. John has had the carpets thoroughly vacuumed, the restrooms cleaned and the floors waxed. John will discuss having this service performed regularly at the Board Meeting.

The comm truck canopy project has been completed. (The canopy has been lowered about six inches, and a cover of darker material added, due to a complaint of lost views, etc., by one of our neighbors. Bldg. Mgr. John Butler considers the complaint legitimate. ed.)

Both of the ICOM-735 radios and the ICOM-765 radio are working and available for Field Day. The grounding system in the radio room has also been completed.

Under Old Business, the status of the restrooms, kitchen and office areas were discussed. President Dave commented that the first priority would be any areas that were leaking. Rich Carbine, W6UDS made some good comments regarding the history of the building and the remodeling plans that had been drawn up, which he still has copies of. There was further discussion of the appropriate approach to follow, including just doing maintenance and minor upgrades.

To page three, column three.

GENERAL MEETING 3 March 2006

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by President Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ. Other board members present were Eric Rosenquist, KG6WOU; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; Tom Jordan, KG6TCM; Al Weisman, W5ALW; and W6SG Trustee August Koehler, KØCQL.

Guest present was Gary, KD6WSY.

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the February General Membership Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5. Secretary Jenkins reported on a thank-you letter received from the parent of a member and that a response was being written.

President Dave reported that Vice-president Eric Rosenquist had been elected by the Board to serve as the 2006 Treasurer.

Recreation Committee Chair Connie Sawtelle, AE6PA that she had reserved the same great site that we had in 2005 at Samuel Taylor State Park for the 23 September 2006 Picnic.

Public Service Chair Randy reported on upcoming public service events, including the Relay, and the Miwok 100K. Chuck Deatrick, WA6SQQ, who will be heading up the organization of the Relay, made additional comments about the event. The communications request form for organizations that desire amateur radio support from the club was described and it has been posted at the website.

President Dave made the Technical report. The 146.700 repeater still needs to be visited, when weather permits. The Big Rock input to the 147.330 repeater may be becoming "deaf", and a trip will be made as soon as weather and scheduling permit.

Vice-president Eric reported on progress on the APRS project made possible by a generous donation that was made by the Marin Cyclists.

Education Chair Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, reported on Technician Classes to be held on March 4 and 11, to be followed by a VE Exam on March 18.

VE Liaison Al Weisman reported that VE sessions had been scheduled for March 18th, June 3rd, and September 2nd. After discussion, the September date was changed to September 9th to avoid conflicting with the Labor Day weekend. The dates have been posted on the website. Al commented on the great job being done by the Webmaster.

Field Day Chair Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, reported that the club had received a letter from the Marin Rod & Gun club about using their facility. Plans are coming along.

Membership: Ben Sawtelle reported that we have 83 renewals out of 137 total members on the roster. (This is a bit misleading

To column two, lower section.

FAILURE TO RESPOND TO FCC COULD LEAD TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The FCC has held up the license renewal of a New Jersey Novice ticket holder for failing to respond to a Commission field office Citation and a Warning Notice, both dating back several years. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told Ronald A. Mondgoek, KA3OMZ, of Burlington, that if he did not submit a timely reply to his February 6, 2006, letter, the Commission would dismiss his renewal application and issue a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture.

In February 2002, Hollingsworth wrote Mondgoek regarding allegations he'd transmitted in the 75-meter phone band, which is unavailable to Novice class licensees. In July 2004, the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office cited Mondgoek for allegedly failing to identify, making transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized under his license.

On February 7, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Frank J. Fatigate, KB2YDO, of Hopewell Junction, New York, for allegedly failing to reply to a complaint the FCC forwarded to him nearly a year earlier. The FCC cited US Postal Service records indicating that Fatigate, a Technician licensee, **refused delivery of the Commission correspondence.** Subsequent attempts to reach Fatigate yielded no response. Noting that Fatigate had apparently changed his address, the FCC gave him additional time to reply or face a possible fine of up to \$4000.

Hollingsworth said this week that he has yet to hear from either Mondgoek or Fatigate. Go get 'em!

Dog v. Human Years.

No, it isn't seven to one. In fact, the average equivalent dog age at the end of the first year is fifteen. It's an average because larger dogs don't live as long as small ones. Here's how those in the know have it figured:

Human	Dog	Dog
1 years	15:1	15 years
2 "	12	24 "
4 "	8	32 "
7 "	6.4	45 "
10 "	5.6	56 "
15 "	5+	76 "

"Democracy is a process by which people have the free will to choose the person who will get the blame."

Coalinga.

There is debate about the name Coalinga itself. One claim is that a succession of three coaling stations or perhaps hoppers were situated along the SP rail line. They were Coaling Stations called A B and C. Coaling Station A persisted. This story does not stand close scrutiny. A more likely explanation is that Coaling was given the final "a" for musical effect, changing maps to Coalinga. Briefly, the area was also known as Coaling"o". The truth may never be known because the records were burned up in the great quake and fire in San Francisco in 1906 that destroyed the SP railroad's office.

(Southern Pacific converted to oil around 1910. ed.)

Gas Mileage of Pickups.

According to a study conducted by the Western New England College's Dept. of Mechanical Engineers, the best way to reduce drag and improve gas mileage for pickups was to install a tonneau cover. Keeping the windows rolled up helps, also. But, the engineers said that removing the tailgate or adding a cargo net increased drag. ed.

You Can't Hide.

Have you lost track of someone and none of the places you've looked have been any help in locating him/her? Do you think you can't be found easily because your address is not listed in the local phone book or you use a POBox? Better think again. There's a site called

zabasearch.com

that may interest you. It's easy to use. Just enter a name and pick a state, or choose all states. However, if you're looking for John Smith, forget it. For common names, it helps if you know the city/town. You can also enter a middle initial. The returned info will, in some cases, show the year of birth, also. Not all the data is current; some names have more than one address depending on how mobile the person has been. No guarantees. There are options to dig deeper but that can cost you some bucks. ed.

Big Deal

The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity fee is \$21.90. Eighteen cents/year! (grin) ed.

General Meeting from page two, column three. Under New Business, President Dave proposed the idea of holding a "Swap Meet" at the clubhouse. The idea of a donation of a percentage of the sales proceeds to the club was discussed. Other suggestions included the idea of holding it at the Rod & Gun Club during Field Day w/e.

Jerry Foster asked about passing data or SS (Slow Scan) TV transmissions through the 70CM repeaters. President Hodgson has referred the question to Trustee Doug Slusher, and it seems to be a controller issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:23.

The next meeting will be on April 7.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

Smaller Print.

You may have noticed that a lot of the print is smaller in QSA-5 this year. Our new secretary, Randy, is more wordy than our former secretary, Norm, whom we used to have to figuratively pry each word out of. We tried to keep to a ten point Arial font for the benefit of club members, like your editor, whose eyes may not be what they once were. We considered putting out a large type edition similar to *Reader's Digest* for the benefit of we elderfahnten but, because magnifiers are readily available, thought better of it. ed.

What's Your home Worth?

Here's an interesting site where you can fill in your street address, or just the street or neighborhood plus city & state or zip code and get back a base-line estimate of your home's value, along with others in your immediate area. It looks like a satellite photo with the dollar values and property lines superimposed upon it. It may not reflect the rundown condition of that illegitimate's place down the block. (grin) ed.

<http://www.zillow.com/>

The Rest of The Story

It all started with a man named Roy Allen, who opened his first root beer and hamburger stand in Lodi, California on June 20, 1919. Allen's root beer became a real success. As the money poured in, Allen was able to start his second root beer stand, this time in Sacramento, and the J. Hungerford Smith Co. began manufacturing "Roy Allen's Root Beer" concentrate. In 1922, Frank Wright joined Allen in the business, and the brand name was born -- A & W Root Beer.

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left directly under the power lines.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The 'Bible' (or babble) Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only. Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Marin Amateur Radio Society	Education Chair:	ARRL WAS Local Rep:
President:	Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170	Rem O'Donnely K6BBQ
Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864	kermode7@hotmail.com	DX Representative of ARRL:
Vice President:	Membership Chair:	Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829
Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841	Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170	WEBMASTER
Secretary:	VE Liaison:	Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089	Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Treasurer: We're workin' on it.	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinators
Additional Board Members:	John Butler KF6GNI 892-4958	Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	Trustee for W6SG:	510-526-4089
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849	Augie Koehler KØCQL	Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM
Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170	Trustee for K6GWE:	497-4406
Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170	Doug Slusher KF6AKU	Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ
Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406	Sunday Emergency Nets:	897-7267
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Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
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